

NEWS RELEASE

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

**RONALD J. TENPAS
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY**

Nine Executive Drive, Fairview Heights, Illinois 62208, Telephone (618) 628-3700

For Immediate Release

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Ronald J. Tenpas, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on March 2, 2004, **JONATHON MILTON MARTIN**, age 43, of 1100 North Elm, Centralia, Illinois, was indicted by a Federal Grand Jury sitting in Benton, Illinois, in a one count Indictment. Martin had earlier been charged in a criminal complaint that had been brought by the United States Attorney. Federal law requires a grand jury indictment, however, after that initial charge by the U.S. Attorney.

Count 1 charges that on or about February 26, 2004, in Franklin County, and elsewhere within the Southern District of Illinois, **JONATHAN MILTON MARTIN**, defendant herein, did knowingly and unlawfully seize, confine, kidnap, abduct, or carry away, and hold for ransom, reward, and otherwise, Kimberly McGhee, and did willfully transport Kimberly McGhee in interstate commerce between the State of Illinois and the State of Missouri, all in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1201(a)(1), and Title 18 United States Code, Section 2.

An indictment is a formal charge against a defendant. Under the law, a defendant is presumed to be innocent of a charge until proved guilty beyond a reasonable doubt to the satisfaction of a jury.

Count 1 carries a possible penalty of up to life imprisonment, a fine of up to \$250,000 and a term of up to 5 years supervised release.

An initial appearance for **JONATHAN MILTON MARTIN** has been set for March 4, 2004, at 9:30 a.m., at the United States Courthouse in Benton, Illinois.

The indictment is the culmination of an investigation that was conducted by several law enforcement agencies working in close cooperation. Those agencies involved in the investigation were the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the West Frankfort Police Department, the Centralia Police Department, the St. Louis City Police Department, the Franklin County Sheriff's Department, the Illinois State Police, the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the United States Marshal Service, and the Marion County State's Attorney.

The prosecuting authorities involved in the investigation and prosecution of the matter are the United States Attorney's Office and the Franklin County State's Attorney.

The federal aspect of the case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney George Norwood. Franklin County States Attorney William Richardson will pursue the state aspects of the case.